

Message Text

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SUBJ: THE PEACE MOVEMENT

REF: DUBLIN 1705

1. BETWEEN THIRTY AND FIFTY THOUSAND PEOPLE TURNED OUT FOR THE DUBLIN PEACE MARCH ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 28, IN SUPPORT OF THE WOMEN'S PEACE MOVEMENT IN NORTHERN IRELAND. THERE WERE ALSO SMALLER RALLIES IN CORK, GALWAY, CARRAROE, ENNIS, BALLINA AND CARLOW. THE DUBLIN RALLY WAS IMPRESSIVE, ORDERLY AND WITHOUT ANY SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS. MANY TOURISTS JOINED IN AND THERE WAS A LARGE CONTINGENT FROM THE WORLD METHODIST CONVENTION CURRENTLY MEETING IN DUBLIN.

2. THE DUBLIN ORGANIZERS OF THIS MOVEMENT, STILL A RATHER INCHOATE, AD HOC GROUP, HAVE NO DEFINITE PLANS AS YET FOR FURTHER EVENTS. THEY ARE DETERMINED TO TAKE THEIR CUE FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND WOMEN. ONE ORGANIZER TOLD AN EMBOFF THAT THEY WERE CONSIDERING A JOINT MARCH, THE NORTHERN IRELAND WOMEN MEETING UP WITH THE SOUTHERN IRELAND WOMEN AT THE BORDER.

3. OBSERVORS AND COMMENTATORS ARE STILL RUMINATING ON THE
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SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS NOW ISLAND-WIDE MOVEMENT. IS IT JUST

ANOTHER SUMMER PHENOMENON, A MOMENTARY TASTE OF HEIGHTENED EXCITEMENT, WHICH WILL FADE WITH THE COLD WEATHER? THE GOALS SEEM RATHER NEBULOUS TO SOME - HOW DOES A REPETITIOUS CHANTING OF THE WORD PEACE ACTUALLY TRANSLATE INTO PRACTICAL MEASURES TO CURB TERRORISTS? BUT WITH THE DOUBTS, THERE IS ALSO CONSIDERABLE HOPE AND OPTIMISM THAT THE MOVEMENT WILL LEAD TO POSITIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE NORTH. THE IRISH PRESS (AUG 30) SAID: "LAST SATURDAY WILL BE REMEMBERED AS A TRULY MOMENTOUS DAY....BUT WHEN THE MARCHING AND RALLYING LOSE MOMENTUM, AS IT SURELY MUST, THE TIME FOR THE TALKING ABOUT A REAL PEACE MUST BEGIN - AND IT IS THEN ONE HOPES THAT THE POLITICIANS AND THE PARAMILITARIES WILL REACT TO WHAT THEY SAW NORTH AND SOUTH LAST WEEKEND."

4. WE TALKED TO ONE INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS GOOD CONTACTS WITH THE IRA, AND HE SAID THAT THE MOVEMENT IS CAUSING A DEFINITE MORALE PROBLEM IN THE PROVISIONAL RANKS AND IF IT GOES ON MUCH LONGER IT COULD PERHAPS POSE A THREAT TO THE IRA. HE DOES NOT, HOWEVER, BELIEVE THE CATHOLIC WOMEN WILL EVER GET TO THE POINT OF INFORMING ON OR TURNING IN THE "BOYOS" IN BELFAST. THE GHETTO DWELLERS STILL HAVE AN AMBIGUOUS ATTITUDE TOWARD THE PROVOS, HE SAID, AND THERE IS A RATHER ELABORATE STRUCTURE OF INTIMIDATION (HE DID NOT USE THE TERM). ALSO, HE SAID, ONE CAN CONFIDENTLY EXPECT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND ARMY TO MAKE SOME SERIOUS BLUNDER WHICH WILL REGAIN SYMPATHY FOR THE PROVOS. CURLEY

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